(c) Dental Council of India has reported that no ineligible college was recommended for recognition at its meeting held on 28-29 October, 2002. It is stated that the cases of only those dental colleges are considered by the Council for recognition, which are found eligible for the purpose after requisite insepction.

Ill-effects of Tattoos

2732. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tattoos on the human skin are leading to leprosy; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are going to take to curb and use of tattoos?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The known probable methods of spread of mycobacteria lepreae are by the droplet infections and by prolonged skin to skin contact with an infectious untreated leprosy case.

Mysterious disease in Karnataka

2733. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that mysterious disease plagues few villages in the northern part in Bidar District of Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the remedial action taken to protect the citizens from this mysterious mental disorder?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Government is aware of a mysterious problem called "Bhanamati" in the districts of Bidar and Gulbarga of Karnataka. During 1980, this problem was investigated by a committee headed by Dr. H. Narasimhaiah, former Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University and a well known rationalist. Mental health experts from NIMHANS examined all the victims of "Bhanamati". The victims were actually suffering from known physical and mental disorders.